

The City of Clayton
Community Equity Commission

Virtual Zoom Meeting

April 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Laura Horwitz (Chair), Chris Schmiz, Yvonne Tisdell, Ben Uchitelle, Frances Pires, Stuart Berkowitz, Ted Wheeler, Dr. Sean Doherty (ex officio), Ellen Gale (ex officio), JoAnna Schooler (ex officio), Laurie Anzilotti (ex officio), and Kenneth Murdoch (ex officio).

Additional: Alderwoman Joanne Boulton, Alderwoman Susan Buse, City Manager David Gipson, and Assistant to the City Manager Andrea Muskopf

Minutes

Ben Uchitelle moved to approve the March 11, 2021 minutes. Frances Pires seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Reflection: Atlanta Incident and Supporting Asian Community

Rev. Laurie Anzilotti and Yvonne Tisdell led the Commission in moment of reflection, prayer, and remembrance for Asian American victims of violence.

2020 Special Thanks

Yvonne Tisdell led the Commission in a reflection on the Commission's accomplishments over the past year. Chair Horwitz recognized that this was Alderwoman Boulton's last meeting as aldermanic liaison.

Beginning Thoughts and Considerations for Affordable Housing/Diverse Community

Dr. Sean Doherty and Yvonne Tisdell presented their beginning thoughts and considerations for Affordable Housing/Diverse Community and the Commission

Communications Ideation

This discussion has been delayed.

Old Business

Public Comments from March 11, 2021

City Manager Gipson reviewed the public comments from the March 11 meeting.

Updates on Board of Aldermen Discussions

Yvonne Tisdell, Chris Schmiz, and Ben Uchitelle shared updates from the discussion session with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen at the March 23 Board of Aldermen meeting.

Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force (Task Force)

Mayor Michelle Harris, Geoff Ward, Chris Schmiz, and Assistant to the City Manager Muskopf presented the evaluation criteria created by the Task Force and invited feedback from the Commission.

Public Comment

Rick Bliss inquired about the meeting minutes on the City's website.

Alderman Dan Sokol commended the Commission for all of their hard work and dedication.

Jonathan Schehen shared that he appreciated the discussion the Commission had during the meeting and all of the work the Commission continues to do.

Kathleen Gund submitted her comment in writing ahead of the meeting. City Manager Gipson read the comment aloud.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13 at 5:30 pm.

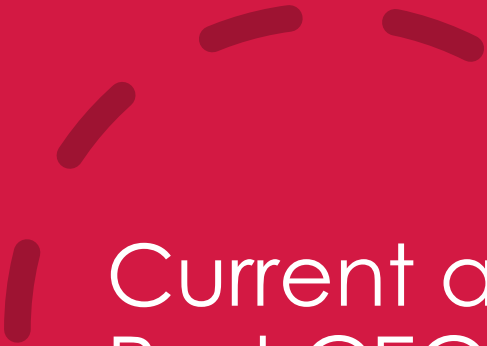
Adjourn

Having no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

“Never **underestimate** the power of a **small group** of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has.” ~ Margaret Mead.

Thanks to all of the Community Equity Commission (CEC) for a successful 2020 year-first year!





Current and Past CEC members, Ex- officio members and BOA Liaisons

Current Members:

Laura
Horwitz-
Chair

Frances Pires

Christine
Schmiz

Stuart
Berkowitz

Ben
Uchitelle

Yvonne
Tisdell

Ted Wheeler

Ex-officio Members:

Dr Sean
Doherty

Joanna
Schooler

Reverend
Laurie
Anzilotti

Kenneth
Murdock

Ellen Gale

BOA Liaisons:

Susan Buse

Joanne
Boulton

Past Members:

Nikki Bisel

Adam
Sheble



Special Thanks

CEC give special Thanks to:

Mayor and Board of Aldermen

Chief Smith-Chief of Police

David Gipson-City Manager

Andrea Muskopf-Asst. City Manager

All the dedicated citizens who attend the CEC meetings and the Clayton citizens

Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force

Guiding Principles

1. Commemorative objects should align with our community's highest aspirations, including as these relate to truthfulness, equity, and inclusion.
2. When considering existing or proposed commemorative objects, the City of Clayton should seek to honestly and productively engage history, and never to erase it.
3. When considering inherited and new commemorative objects, both past and present contributions and impacts of the representation must be given careful consideration.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Is the *principal legacy* of the namesake and/or is the subject depicted fundamentally at odds with current community values? If yes, please explain.
2. What was the context at the time and is that something we want to continue to honor and embrace?
3. Does the place name or commemorative object celebrate a part of history that believe is fundamental to who we are and what we value?
4. Does the place name or commemorative object make a nuanced, complex history accessible to the public, or provide an opportunity to educate the public?
5. Does the place name or commemorative object restore histories that have been erased or not adequately represented, or provide an opportunity to educate the public?

Approval Process



Items Under Consideration (Short List)

- ☐ Portrait of Ralph Clayton
- ☐ Jackson Avenue
- ☐ Areas of Clayton were historically black after the Civil War
- ☐ Philippine Exhibit at World's Fair
- ☐ Pay tribute to the Osage Nation

Comments/Questions

Andrea Muskopf

From: Kathleen Gund <kathleenmgund@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:15 AM
To: Andrea Muskopf
Subject: Comment for 4.8.21 CEC meeting

[CAUTION – EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Andrea,

Can you please distribute the following to the CEC members?

Thank you, Kathleen

To Members of the Community Equity Commission,

I have closely followed the public discussions, actions, and communications of the CEC since its first meeting in March of 2020--lots for the Commission members to be proud of, particularly in the areas of education and awareness.

But I'd like to bring attention back to a question that was brought up at the first CEC meeting on March 9, 2020. *What are the **structural** issues that prevent us from being diverse?*

As the CEC evaluates its priorities for 2021, I would like to ask the Commission to consider a full review of our City's structure (laws, policies, established practices, cultural norms, etc.) using the lens of equity. A review would cohere with the section of Ordinance 6621 stating that one of the CEC's objectives is to "evaluate and develop actionable equity recommendations to be used to examine and strengthen policies, practices, services and programs". The goal of this review would be to guide the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen to make those changes necessary to better foster a diverse and inclusive community.

Thank you,

Kathleen Gund

In light of the current public health crisis and the Federal, State and County Emergency Declarations, and in accord with the provisions of Sec. 610.020, RSMo., the Board of Aldermen recognizes that it would be dangerous and impractical, if not impossible, for its meeting to be physically accessible to the public. The Board also recognizes the need for the public's business to be attended to in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare. In order to balance both the need for continuity of government and protection of the health and safety of our residents, business persons and employees, this meeting of the Community Equity Commission will not be open to public attendance in person. The meeting will be accessible by the public in real time ONLY by following the instructions in the box below.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: April 8, 2021 05:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Community Equity Commission

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83207030795>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13126266799,,83207030795# or +19292056099,,83207030795#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 832 0703 0795

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83207030795>

Persons interested in making their views known on any matter on the agenda should send an email with their comments to the Assistant to the City Manager at amuskopf@claytonmo.gov. All comments received will be distributed to the entire Commission before the meeting.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we all try to get through these difficult and dangerous times.

Community Equity Commission
April 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Agenda

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Approval of March 11, 2021 Minutes
3. Reflection: Atlanta Incident and Supporting Asian Community
4. 2020 Special Thanks
5. Beginning Thoughts and Considerations for Affordable Housing/Diverse Community
6. Communications Ideation
7. Old Business
 - a. Public Comments from March 11, 2021 Meeting
 - b. Updates on Board of Aldermen Discussions
 - c. Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force Update
8. Public Comment
9. Comments from Members
10. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 13 at 5:30 pm
11. Adjourn

The City of Clayton
Community Equity Commission
Virtual Zoom Meeting
March 11, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Laura Horwitz (Chair), Chris Schmiz, Yvonne Tisdell, Ben Uchitelle, Frances Pires, Stuart Berkowitz, Ted Wheeler, Dr. Sean Doherty (ex officio), Ellen Gale (ex officio), JoAnna Schooler (ex officio), and Laurie Anzilotti (ex officio)

Additional: Alderwoman Joanne Boulton, Alderwoman Susan Buse, City Manager David Gipson, and Assistant to the City Manager Andrea Muskopf

Minutes

Ben Uchitelle moved to approve the February 11, 2021 minutes. Yvonne Tisdell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Welcome of New Commission Member

The Commission welcomed its newest member, Ted Wheeler.

Discussion on 2021 Commission Priorities

The Commission discussed upcoming priorities agreed to the following.

1. Engagement Plan for Suspicious Activity and related topics
2. Inviting a speaker from Webster Groves as well as Molly Metzger to a future meeting to discussing housing
3. Discuss the white paper on housing drafted by Dr. Sean Doherty and Yvonne Tisdell

The Commission discussed what and how the Commission will measure success as well as possible ways to collaborate with partners and create a broader reach for communications.

The Communications Subcommittee will facilitate the discussion on an engagement plan at the April 8, 2021 meeting.

Annual Report

Yvonne Tisdell presented the Commission with the Annual Report. The Communications Subcommittee will be presenting the Annual Report to the Board of Aldermen on March 23, 2021 during the Discussion Session.

Old Business

Public Comments from February 11, 2021

City Manager Gipson reviewed the public comments from the February 11 meeting.

Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force (Task Force)

Chris Schmiz shared that the Task Force is finalizing the evaluation criteria and hope to bring the proposals to the Commission for input in April.

Subcommittee Reports

Communications Subcommittee

Yvonne Tisdell provided an update on the heritage calendar. She also provided an update on the joint meeting between the Communications Subcommittee, Alderwoman Boulton, and Mayor Harris regarding the Mission Statement language. The updated language is as follows.

Original/Current

The mission of Clayton city government is to foster a vital, balanced community composed of outstanding neighborhoods, quality businesses, commercial and government centers, premier educational institutions and a healthy natural environment through open, accessible and fiscally responsible government.

CCEC revision to current statement to include “diverse and inclusive” & “equitable”

The mission of Clayton city government is to foster a vital, balanced, diverse and inclusive community composed of outstanding neighborhoods, quality businesses, commercial and government centers, premier educational institutions and a healthy natural environment through an open, equitable, accessible and fiscally responsible government.

New, Proposed Revision

The mission of Clayton city government is to foster a diverse and inclusive community with a vital balance of neighborhoods, businesses, commercial and government centers, educational institutions and a healthy natural environment through an open, equitable, accessible and fiscally responsible government.

Ben Uchitelle motioned to the Commission recommend the Board of Aldermen adopt the new, proposed revision to the City’s Mission Statement. Yvonne Tisdell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Board will be reviewing the recommendation during their Strategic Discussion Session on Friday, March 19 and will consider the resolution to revise the Mission Statement during the regular meeting on Tuesday, March 23.

Law Enforcement Subcommittee

Stuart Berkowitz shared that the Subcommittee met with Chief Smith for an update on the traffic stop data.

Public Comment

Kathleen Gund inquired about the Internal Equity Audit. City Manager Gipson shared that this is a priority for the City and staff is working to compile and gather information to present to the Board of Aldermen and Community Equity Commission throughout the months of April and May.

Peter Smith shared his perspective on the City’s Mission Statement update.


Jena Schaumburg thanked the Commission for its work shared her excitement to hear about the housing work.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8 at 5:30 pm.

Adjourn


Having no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.



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CLAYTON COMMUNITY EQUITY COMMISSION

COMMUNICATIONS IDEATION – APRIL 8, 2021

Background

The Clayton Community Equity Commission (CCEC) was established by Bill No. 6759 to provide the Mayor and Board of Aldermen with an additional resource as well as special insight and guidance on matters of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Among its duties is to promote community awareness and education on the value of diversity to the community.

In June 2020, the CCEC decided to begin its broader equity work by addressing racial equity. Prioritizing racial equity provides the opportunity to introduce a framework, tools and resources that can also be applied to other areas of marginalization.

Suspicious activity calls have been identified by Clayton police as a potential problem, an area where cops are frequently sent out with limited information, a low chance of solving or preventing crimes, and a high risk of mistaken identity. The data showed there is a consistent racial disparity in these calls with African Americans 50% more likely to be the subject described.

The move toward equity in Clayton in this area very much lives with the residents and we need to reach them to effect change. We know that it will take multiple exposures and a broad reach of messaging if we are to curb unwarranted suspicious calls in the Clayton community.

Ideation Purpose

The purpose of this session is twofold:

1. Engage commission as well as community members to identify channels of communication that could be accessed for messaging. These would include professional as well as personal networks – e.g., business & church groups, neighborhood organizations, social & book clubs, etc.
2. Identify what kind of communication work best in each network.

A 30-minute session will be conducted at the CCEC public meeting on April 8, 2021

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